

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of automating the verification of a fabric for interconnecting a cluster of end nodes. Switches within the fabric periodically access ports that are neighbors to ports of the switch to gather information about the neighboring port. This information is stored in the switch and is available for access by an end node fabric management process, which, after obtaining the information determines whether the information is valid, and subjects the information to a plurality of tests to determine whether the configurations of the switch and the connections made thereto are compatible and valid. If the configurations are compatible and valid, ports on the switch pertaining to the information are enabled for data transfer. If configurations are incompatible or invalid, ports on the switch are disabled.